THE ASIA SOCIETY, INC.

March 24, 1980

Professor Henry Breitrose, Chairman
Department of Communication
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Professor Breitrose:

I am writing in response to your letter concerning Irv Drasnin. Irv has been a close associate for over five years and has worked with me on a wide variety of projects relating to The Asia Society's China Council. These collaborative efforts permit me to know his capacities very well. I would recommend him without hesitation for an appointment to Stanford University.

First of all, he is an outstanding figure in the world of broadcast journalism and documentary film production. For almost twenty years, he has worked with great distinction at CBS, and has produced some truly stellar documentaries. His work on China in particular has been truly remarkable -- "Misunderstanding China" and "Shanghai" are both classics.

Second, Irv has a tremendous grasp of the broader social, economic, political, and cultural contexts of the many countries and areas where he has an interest. His knowledge of China surpasses anyone I know in the area of broadcast journalism (and really is the equal of some of the best Asian correspondents today). He has a strong grasp of Rhodesia and southern Africa as a result of other documentary work. And of course his other documentaries have brought considerable sensitivity to American domestic issues as well.

Third, he communicates with great eloquence and sensitivity. I have heard him before audiences of various sizes, small seminars to large lectures, and he speaks with considerable skill. And he does the same in his writings as well. I would think that he would be an excellent teacher and author during his stay at Stanford.

Finally, Irv is simply a very fine human being. He puts his all into his dealings with people. Thus people come away from exposure to Irv with considerable intellectual and emotional insights. For Irv, but even more for his students, an appointment to Stanford would offer great benefits.

Thus, I think you would be most fortunate to have Irv Drasnin teach at Stanford, and hope that you can come to a mutual understanding. Please call or write if you desire further information.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Oxnam
Vice President
and Director

RBO:dk